

Weekly Newsletter
(17th February – 23rd February 2020)

Dear Reader

Novel Coronavirus has come as a big challenge for all of us. The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus is a stark reminder that increasingly, global economies and supply chains are integrated and therefore have the vulnerability to cascading shocks. NATHEALTH has urged all members and stakeholders to support the government's measures to check this menace. We are aware that any shock to the health system triggered by a virus has the potential to fill up the hospitals' beds, overwhelm the crowded public health infrastructure, drain inequitable distribution of healthcare workers and drive up out of the pocket expenditure. Hence, this threat calls for medical counter measures in advance preparation for an outbreak. We may consider options which can our nation disaster resilient. It is high time to replicate the US project such as Project Bioshield.

NATHEALTH firmly believes that despite challenges of inadequate financing and health infrastructure, India has inherent strengths- a network of world-class doctors and healthcare professionals who are coveted all around the world, strong telecom reach, strong network providers and strong public and private sector research and medical facilities of eminence. It is a great asset which along with India's innovative mind-set will help us rise above many challenges.

Government of India has already initiated a number of critical measures to build up necessary reserves based on planned contingencies for critical medical supplies and reduce cascading effect on contracts by invoking force majeure clause. We should pledge to make the necessary commitments both as citizens, Government and as a nation together during this pivotal moment.

NATHEALTH continues to express its views on five pillars of the healthcare sector. In this week, our Senior Vice President Ms Preetha Reddy expressed her views in Express Healthcare and she emphasized that with desired policy push or reforms, Indian healthcare would be well-equipped to move efficiently towards making of a healthy, distress-free and comprehensive wellness system for all as envisaged in 'Vision 2030'.

On the policy front, the government is monitoring and reviewing the situation on coronavirus threat periodically at the top level. During the week both Union Health Minister and Cabinet Secretary reviewed the situation. A travel advisory, suggesting to refrain from un-essential travel to Singapore, was also issued.

Check out the newsletter to know what is happening in other segments of the healthcare sector. Follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook for real times updates.

<https://twitter.com/nathealthindia>

<https://www.facebook.com/nathealthindia/>

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Check out our previous newsletters [Here](#)

NATHEALTH Leadership Series

Focus on prevention and partnerships to make India healthy

Preetha Reddy, Senior Vice President, NATHEALTH shares insights on how a healthy India is a prerequisite for a wealthy India. In an exclusive article in Express Healthcare, She writes with desired policy push or reforms, Indian healthcare would be well-equipped to move efficiently towards making of a healthy, distress-free and comprehensive wellness system for all as envisaged in 'Vision 2030.'

Bengaluru takes ill with dust, dip in temperature

Dr H Sudarshan Ballal, Medical Director, Manipal Hospitals, explained that in cases of patients coming with a viral illness, symptoms like irritability in the respiratory tract and cough is persisting longer. He said, "We have been seeing patients with post-viral irritability. We see reactive airway diseases. While there is the temperature change, on the other hand, there is dust. Although dust itself might not cause any major illness, once the respiratory tract is inflamed, the dust aggravates the conditions.

Conference on financing healthcare

To bring clarity on the matter, the Goa Institute of Management (GIM), Sanquelim, organized a conference, Accelerating and Sustaining Investments for Financing India's Healthcare Needs attended by over 170 delegates. NATHEALTH Past President Hon Brig. Dr Arvind Lal, Chairman and Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs also shared his views on healthcare financing.

Healthcare Policy Updates

PM appreciates 10 Doctors & Nursing Officers for Call on Duty – Wuhan Criss

Dr. Harsh Vardhan presents the letters of appreciation to 10 Doctors & Nursing Officers, part of Wuhan evacuation team. The Prime Minister commends the "grit, determination and compassion displayed by the rescue team" and states that "it proves that the true test of character lies in adversity"

Cabinet approves the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill 2020

The Union Cabinet has approved the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill 2020. This follows the introduction in Parliament of the Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2020, and the approval of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill 2020. These legislative measures are path breaking steps to protect women's reproductive rights.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan reviews actions taken and preparedness with senior officials on Novel Coronavirus (COVID 19)

The Union Health Minister was informed that various precautionary measures have been undertaken in close coordination with the concerned ministries at the central level. He was also informed that the States

have been advised to regularly update the requisite information pertaining to screening and surveillance accurately and in a timely manner

Citizens are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Singapore

Cabinet Secretary chaired a high level meeting to review the status, actions taken and preparedness of States/UTs regarding management of Novel Coronavirus (COVID19), Also, in furtherance to the travel advisory issued earlier, citizens are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Singapore.

Healthcare Industry Overview

Coronavirus outbreak: India Inc scales the wall as China can't mask its pain

India Inc is sending face masks, sanitisers, soaps and disinfectants as companies do their bit to help China cope with shortage as the world's most populous nation grapples with the Covid-19 outbreak that's claimed about 2,500 victims so far.

Impact of Coronavirus: Assocham says no need to panic

Indian industry and trade, including pharmaceuticals, are ready to manage the "evolving" coronavirus situation without causing any major impact on the supply chain and no major challenge is foreseen in the near term, according to industry body Assocham.

Strides Consumer forays into North India market

Consumer healthcare firm Strides Consumer said it has forayed into North Indian market with oral nicotine replacement therapy and topical analgesic segments. The company currently has strong presence in states like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Assam.

Trump's visit may give healthcare shot in arm

Healthcare is going to be an important focus area for PM Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump when they sit down for official talks. The two countries are likely to sign an MoU for strengthening cooperation on mental and emotional well-being. Another MoU on strengthening cooperation in the generic medicine regime is also expected to be signed.

Medtech Forum

Commerce minister says price cuts on medical devices and drugs are here to stay

Speaking at a Pharma CEO panel at the annual BioAsia2020 event at Hyderabad Commerce Minister Piyush Goel said that his government will continue to implement price control measures of drugs and devices in India, as the country looks to balance needs of its economically weak population.

China to waive tariffs on US medical imports amid virus outbreak

China will waive trade-war tariffs on imports of selected US medical equipment from March 2, the government said Tuesday, as the country battles to contain the new coronavirus epidemic.

Kerala: Sree Chitra develops low cost stent graft

[Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology \(SCTIMST\) has developed affordable aortic stent graft and its delivery system for the treatment of thoracic aortic aneurysm](#)

[Birlasoft eyes micro verticals, cross-selling to reach \\$1bn mark](#)

[A few months ago, the company signed a \\$240 million multi-year deal with medical devices firm Invacare, providing 'IT-as-a-Service' through an achievement based agreement. The company is looking to grow by focusing on micro-verticals and upselling multiple services to customers](#)

Insurance Forum

[Buying health cover for elderly parents is a must](#)

[Amit Chhabra, Business Head, Health Insurance, Policybazar.com says Considering the current rate of medical inflation in India, adequate health insurance has become a must-have for each and every individual, and if the individual happens to be your parents, the need for buying a senior citizen health insurance plan becomes all the more important.](#)

[IRDAI Revises Clause in Health Insurance Policies: How You Will Be Impacted](#)

[According to the new change, any disease that a policyholder gets diagnosed with within the first three months of taking a health insurance policy will no longer be considered as a pre-existing disease. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India \(IRDAI\) has amended the definition of pre-existing diseases \(PED\), which is likely to reduce the rate of claim rejection in health insurance.](#)

[GST paid on life, health cover premiums are eligible for tax deduction benefits](#)

[When you pay a premium for a life or health policy, you also have to pay goods and services tax \(GST\), which effectively increases the overall premium. GST is charged on different parts of the premium, depending on the](#)

[type of policy you buy.](#)

Diagnosics Forum

[India is our long-term growth hub: Medcover Global CEO](#)

[The Poland-based healthcare and diagnostics services provider is planning to expand presence and bring its diagnostics business to India. Medcover Global plans to add at least 10 new hospitals in the next five years and bring its diagnostic business to India in a year](#)

[India Diabetes Care Index: HbA1c level decreased in Mumbai during Oct-Dec 2019](#)

[The latest findings of India Diabetes Care Index unveiled that the average HbA1c level decreased to 8.19 from 8.25 during October to December 2019 as compared to the preceding quarter in Mumbai. The overall HbA1c level decreased to 8.37 from 8.52 as compared to the preceding quarter in the country.](#)

[Sonic wave tech to treat kidney stones now used to break plaque in arteries](#)

[In the last month, a few Mumbai's cardiologists have begun using this stone-breaking-based device to 'break' calcium deposits within diseased arteries before fixing a stent. This technology uses sound waves to break the calcium just as it is used to break calcified stones of gall bladder and kidney stones.](#)

[PPP Model Providing Right Impetus to Diagnostic Industry](#)

[In any modern healthcare system, laboratory diagnostics play a crucial role for effective functioning of the overall care delivery system. Pathology and radiology have witnessed huge transformation in the last decade thanks to technological advancements and innovative practices.](#)

Healthcare Events

[India Health 2020](#)

[Brought to you by the organizers of Arab Health, India Health will take place from 14-16 April 2020 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India. Healthcare has become one of India's largest sectors both in terms of revenue and employment. India Health presents an opportunity to all stakeholders in search of a platform that facilitates business interaction, learning and development, and access to the right healthcare entities, authorities and associations in a fast-emerging economy.](#)

[Conference on Healthcare in India](#)

[Conference on Healthcare in India aim is to highlight the emerging trends, identify the challenges, analyze the impact of key policy and regulatory changes and identify the upcoming opportunities in the healthcare sector.](#)

[International Conference on IACS-India section meeting](#)

[International Conference on IACS-India section meeting is organized by International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences \(IACS\) and will be held from Feb 21 - 23, 2020 at Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University, New Delhi, Delhi, India.](#)

